

# Cheshire West and Chester Council and Frodsham CofE Primary School

Cheshire West and Chester Council and Frodsham CofE Primary School is proposing to permanently lower the school's age range. Frodsham Church of England Primary School, School Lane, Overton, Frodsham, WA6 6AF, in order to fulfil the Council's duty to provide enough childcare places in the local area.

Publication Date: 9 November 2023

## The Proposal

It is proposed to permanently expand the age range of Frodsham Church of England Primary School, School Lane, Overton, Frodsham, WA6 6AF from 4-11 years of age to 2-11 years of age, to take effect from immediately after a final decision has been made following formal consultation. The school has made such additional provision on a temporary basis since September 2021.

## Consultation

Previously, Little Overton's Pre School, a registered charity run by charity trustees, provided Early Years education for children 2-4 years on the site of Frodsham CE Primary School.

In July 2020, the charity trustees approached the school to take over the Pre School due to declining numbers of children and insufficient trustees. In order to continue to provide Early Years education for our local community, the school having successfully implemented this measure on a temporary basis, the Council and the school are proceeding directly to the formal stage of Notice and Representation , which will run from 9 November 2023 – 7 December 2023

Any person or organisation may submit comments to the Council on the proposal and these must be taken into account by the decision-maker who will be the Cabinet Member for Children and Families. The decision must be made in accordance with statutory guidance.

## Description of alteration and evidence of demand

It is proposed that the school permanently increase its age range by making maintained nursery provision for two- four year-olds. The Council and the Governing body of the school believe this increase in the age range of the school is required:

- To ensure all local two - four year old children with an entitlement to early years education are able to access that entitlement in a local setting of their preference.
- To provide the opportunity for parents to have continuity in children's progression from early years education to statutory age schooling.

The Council's Early Years Commissioner has advised these places will be necessary to enable the Council to continue to discharge its duty to ensure a sufficiency of places for two-four year-olds in the area local to the school.

Ofsted has found the school's provision to be 'Good'.

## The effect on other pre-school provision within the area

The proposed provision will allow for the attendance of a maximum of 17 two - four year olds at any time to be accommodated. This is a decrease from the 20 places provided by Little Overton's Pre School. It is not anticipated there will be a detrimental impact on other local provision.

## Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

If approved by the decision-maker (and subject to there being no appeal by Chester or Shrewsbury Dioceses to the Schools Adjudicator) the Governing Body wish to implement the proposal immediately after a decision has been made.

## The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments

A public notice will be published on the Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council website on 9 November 2023

[www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/frodshamCEconsultation](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/frodshamCEconsultation)

A public notice announcing the start of a period of public representations is to be published in the Northwich Guardian on Thursday 9 November 2023

Anyone wishing to discuss this proposal with an officer of the Council and a representative of the school during the period of representations should arrange to do so by emailing

[schoolorganisationandconsultations@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisationandconsultations@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) within two weeks of the publication of the public notice to arrange a telephone conversation/video call.

Within four weeks from the date of publication, any person may send in a response supporting, objecting or commenting on the proposal;

- By sending a response to the Senior Manager, Education Infrastructure, Cheshire West and Chester Council, The Portal, Wellington Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE
- By email to [schoolorganisationandconsultations@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorganisationandconsultations@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

All responses received will be shared with the decision-maker, the Cabinet Member for Children and Families.

Full details of how we manage the information provided by respondents can be found at: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/system-pages/privacy-notices/consultations-privacy-notice.aspx>

The final date for receipt of representations is Midnight 7 December 2023.

Requesting Council information in another format

Council information is available in Audio, Braille and large print formats.

Telephone: 0300 123 8 123

Textphone (BT Text Direct): 18001 01606 275757

International Dialling: +44 (0)1244 977989 (calls are charged at international rates)

Email: [enquiries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

We are also able to provide a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter to support customers with accessing Council services.